

INTERVIEW
WITH

ANNE COHEN

FOUNDER OF C6

*Want to know how Anne makes rings
out of carbon and diamonds alone?
Turn the page to find out how the
magic really happens...*

— BY —
HANNAH SILVER





I became interested in jewellery when I realised what C (Carbon, the sixth atom in the periodic table) was and where it came from. I worked with carbon composite components in the sailboat industry, making one-off components in carbon fibre, and learnt how to handle it. I was fascinated by this sophisticated material and interested in how I could make dynamic forms be both lightweight and super-strong. After research, my dream of making a ring in pure carbon in two opposite materials – carbon fibre and diamonds – was born. It hasn't been easy. The setting of the diamond and making the carbon with a strong structure for me to set the stones directly into presented some challenges, taking a long time and undergoing many tests to get there. Everybody in the business told me it was impossible and had never been done before but I was determined to make a ring consisting only of C6. Today, we're the only one in the world making jewellery in 100% carbon, without glue or precious metal to hold the diamond in place.

They are created by, first of all, weaving the fibres in to a fabric, then bonding the carbon fibre into a matrix under heat and pressure – which is more or less how diamonds are created underground. When this part is done, we can size the rings: every one of them unique.

We based our design concept on the element we are named after. The C6 is based on usage of pure carbon atoms materialised in multiple forms, with the jewellery composed of carbon in two completely different appearances – namely graphite and diamond. Combining science and aesthetics, the C6 design concept brings the diamond back into a beautiful cradle of its natural element. With its stringent and minimalist design it is authentic, contemporary and timeless – being both modern and classic makes it an innovative renewal of the traditional diamond ring.

We see the philosophy of C6 as a symbol of life – black as coal and clear as light itself. This duality and the elements' duality embodies the magic of the elemental cornerstone, C6, of the living world. The design also plays with time, space and being. It is an evolution from supernova explosions to modern technology, simple yet complex.

The C6 Supernova is the real core of this philosophy. We created a special edition of the Supernova for Frost of London, where there are 48 diamonds all the way around the ring. We only work with diamonds, in the best possible quality. A diamond consists of a carbon atom in a three-dimensional structure that gives it its hardness and sparkling colourless, so it's opposite to graphite, where C6 atoms are bonded in a flat structure. This gives it its softness and darkness, as you see in a piece of coal. I like the classic, minimalist jewellery where the material and technicality is at a premium. I like an edge, but it has to give a sense or tell me a story. For me less is more and I like understated luxury where the wearer can relate to the jewellery.

We have some great ambassadors representing the brand – the stardust researcher, Anja C. Andersen, has inspired and taught me much about the element C6 and where we all come from: stardust. Another ambassador is Niels Lan Doky, one of the world's best jazz pianists, who wears the C6 Princess ring as his wedding ring.

The recognition the brand is accumulating is incredible and we've had many highlights to date, notably when I won a new design award, which was first prize at the International Jewellery Show in Copenhagen. That was the first milestone in my career as a designer. Before my first piece was introduced publicly, I would dream of seeing my ring in one specific shop in Copenhagen. The first day when I walked by the window and my collection was presented in the window it gave me the chills. A lot of milestones have been placed during my journey both as a designer and seeing the business grow in to nine countries. Next, we want to penetrate the UK market and get in to premium retailers and galleries, followed by more expansion in Europe, USA, Hong Kong and Japan. We have also been asked to make an exclusive design line to one of the most prestigious car brands in the world. If everything turns out right, we will launch the jewellery line in March 2015. Watch this space...





Ann's CE designs are strong and minimalist, turning the head on an otherwise traditional diamond ring.

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